

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Regarding: Leslie E. SMITH et al.
Serial No. 10/743,936
Filing Date 12/23/2003
Docket No. P-FILM-603
For FORMATION OF WIDE PAINT FILM PRODUCTS

NOV 03 2004

Information Disclosure Statement
with Confirmation of an Election

Attention: Group Art Unit 1732
Examiner Monica Fontaine

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I certify that this correspondence is facsimile-transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (571-273-1198 & 703-872-9306) on this November 3, 2004 A.D.

Christopher John Rudy: Christopher John Rudy Date: 11/3/2004.

Sir:

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies rendered during the telephone interview of this November 2nd, during which the undersigned alerted her to additional art that he had just been made aware of, which he wanted to disclose in an information disclosure statement before the Examiner rendered her first action on the merits of the present application. The Examiner most kindly acquiesced in waiting for the present paper before she rendered the action this week or shortly thereafter.

The Examiner is further thanked for the courtesies rendered during the telephone interview of this October 27th, during which she set forth a restriction requirement, as follows:

Group I: Claims 10-12, method.
Group II: Claims 13-15, apparatus.
Group III: Claims 16-19, product.

The undersigned confirms that he elected, with traverse, the method claims of claims 10-12.

Please consider the information below in supplement to the Information Disclosure Statement (I.D.S.) timely filed on Apr. 6, 2004, and received (filed) in the Office on Apr. 9, 2004, and the I.D.S. timely filed on July 22, 2004 and filed on July 26, 2004.

Benefit under 35 USC 119(e) has been claimed of provisional patent application serial No. 60/491,435 filed on July 31, 2003.

Submitted herewith is a "FORM PTO-1449," which cites the following patent references, each of which is available to the

SMITH et al., 10/743,936

I.D.S. w/C..., p. 2

Examiner electronically at the Office:

U.S. Pat. No. Re 36,457 to Ellison et al. This discloses an injection molded plastic article with integrated weatherable pigmented film surface. Molded articles having contoured, decorative outer surfaces are disclosed.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,933,547 to Yoshida et al. This discloses a method for fixing a pattern described on the surface of thermoplastic resin articles. Patterns with inks or colors on the surface of such articles having an interconnected, fine, open cell structure are rendered durable by heating under pressure.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,769,100 to Short et al. This discloses a method of applying carrier films prepared with metallic paint to automobile body panels. Carrier film prepainted with a metallic paint having metal flakes is applied in a vacuum forming process.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,824,506 to Hoerner et al. This discloses a process for protecting thermoformed films. A decorative glossy film is applied to a relatively rigid substrate in three steps.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,828,637 to Mentzer et al. This discloses a method of applying painted carrier films to automobile body parts, in which the film is applied in a vacuum forming process.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,838,973 to Mentzer et al. This discloses a method of applying painted carrier films to automobile body parts also, in which the film is applied in a vacuum forming process.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,868,030 to Mentzer et al. This is a division of the '637 patent to Mentzer et al., noted above.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,957,802 to Mentzer et al. This is a division of the '973 patent to Mentzer et al., noted above.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,976,896 to Short et al. This discloses a process of making thermoformable laminate films and processes. Therein thermoformable laminate films with a decorative feature include a polymer carrier film, a paint layer, and an optional protective clearcoat. The laminated film has a carrier film prestretched to orient pigment flakes in the paint layer prior to molding to reduce strain levels.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,082,717 to Yaguchi et al. This discloses a styrene-based resin composite material, in which a layer composed mainly of a curable phosphazene compound is formed on the surface of a molding material of a styrene-based polymer, and an ink ribbon in which an ink layer is provided on one side of a film of the polymer and a heat resistant lubricating layer composed mainly of the phosphazene compound on the opposite side.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,114,514 to Landis. This discloses bonding of

SMITH et al., 10/743,936

I.D.S. w/C..., p. 3

thermoplastic sheet material to roughened substrates. Surface energy of a substrate to a paint-coated film is raised and the surface of the substrate is roughened prior to application of the film to reduce surface roughness.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,114,789 to Reafler. This discloses a protective and decorative sheet material having a transparent topcoat. The sheet material includes a flexible carrier film; a paint layer with light reflective flakes, adhered to one surface of the film; and certain a transparent polymeric topcoat.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,125,994 to Harasta et al. This discloses a thermoforming method, in which an adhesive-coated thermoplastic film is stretched and bonded to a three-dimensional substrate by vacuum thermoforming at a lower than normal temperature.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,132,148 to Reafler. This discloses flexible

U.S. Pat. No. 5,456,957 to Jackson et al. This discloses a body side molding and method. A layer of a first material is placed in a mold in a form of an elastic sheet, and then a second thermoplastic material is injected into the mold cavity.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,895,624 to Reece et al. This discloses a method and apparatus for forming thick wall plastic sheets having formable decorative film layers. Compression and vacuum forming,

SMITH et al., 10/743,936

I.D.S. w/C..., p. 4

with subsequent trimming, are employed.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,180,195 to Ellison et al. This discloses an automobile body formed of interconnected molded plastic articles. As an example, a weatherable cast thin film laminated to a PVC film with adhesive is placed in a mold, and PVC is injected behind the PVC layer.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,299,979 to Neubauer et al. This discloses color reflective coating compositions having reflective organic pigments. A certain polymeric color effect pigment is employed.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,419,778 to Miyake et al. This discloses a covering sheet having minute unevenness on the surface thereof, methods of producing said sheet, and a molding using said sheet. A composition containing thermoplastic elastomer and elastic fine particles is extruded into a sheet-like shape from an extruder.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,524,510 to Spengler. This discloses a method and apparatus for producing a precise joint between two cover materials for a trim component, in which the trim component has a substrate and two different cover materials, which are not spliced together but are independently adhesively bonded by a hot melt contact adhesion.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,589,378 to Grefenstein et al. This discloses a process for producing laminated sheets or films and moldings having UV-stability and thermal aging resistance, which includes coextruding certain layers in a single-stage operation or laminating the layers onto one another in a heatable roll nip.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,649,003 to Spain et al. This discloses a dry paint transfer lamination process for making high distinctiveness of image (DOI) automotive body panels. In one embodiment, a paint coat includes an exterior clear coat above a color coat, which, during processing, are each coated on a temporary flexible casting sheet and dried. A high gloss surface is transferred to the clear coat by the casting sheet. The paint coat is then transferred from the casting sheet to a thin, semi-flexible thermoformable plastic backing sheet by dry paint transfer laminating techniques. The resulting laminate is thermoformed into a complex three-dimensional shape of the car body or panel.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,673,428 to Reafler. This is a division of the '148 patent to Reafler, noted above.

U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2001/0019182 by Hebrink et al. This discloses a method (and apparatus) for making COPEN/PMMA multilayer optical films. The same are useful for making interference polarizers, mirrors, and colored films that are optically effective over diverse portions of UV/VIS/IR spectra.

U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2003/0031891 by Fields. This

SMITH et al., 10/743,936

I.D.S. w/C..., p. 5

discloses a formable bright film having discontinuous metallic layers. The same is a metallized laminate with superior optical and deformation properties made from a plurality of discontinuous metal island layers deposited on a formable clear coat film.

U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2003/0041955 by Spengler. This discloses a method and apparatus for making a trim component with a foam core having a smoothly varying thickness. The trim component includes a foam backing layer and a foam pad insert laminated between a cover material and a substrate.

U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2003/0124254 by McCoy et al. This discloses a wet on wet process for producing films. Apparatus and method of making a decorative sheet materials to make complex multi-layer films, in which multiple coat layers are deposited on a flexible carrier film.

U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2003/0213549 by McAmish et al. This discloses a film, laminated sheet, and methods of making the same. A microporous laminate sheet with a first film layer and a second layer are made.

U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2003/0235704 by Akatsu et al. This discloses a polyester film for display. The film has a polyester film substrate containing a UV light absorber, and a coating layer formed on surface(s) of the substrate, with the polyester film having a haze of not more than 2.0%, etc.

U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2004/0033675 by Fleming et al. This discloses a polymer-metal IR-interference filter, in which a film contains first and second metal/alloy layers separated by a crosslinked polymeric spacing layer that is VIS-transmissive and IR-reflective.

U.S. Pat. Appl. Publ. No. 2004/0123942 by Spain et al. This is related as a continuation of US 6579397, which is a division of Serial No. 08/364,548, the continuation application of which (08403215) led to the '003 patent to Spain et al., noted above.

International Pat. Appl. Publ. No. WO 94/03337 by Duhme et al. (3M). This is a publication of PCT/US93/07097 and discloses a paint film and methods for its manufacture. The paint film has a liner layer to assist in injection molding to a substrate.

It is believed that such information alone does not anticipate, nor does it alone or in combination with any other reference cited by the present paper or previously made of record render obvious, the present claimed invention.

If the Examiner cannot obtain any of the references electronically, or otherwise would desire this, the undersigned is able to provide paper or disc copies of any cited reference at her request.

SMITH et al., 10/743,936

I.D.S. w/C..., p. 6

Please indicate consideration of the art on the form, and return a copy of the inscribed form with the first Office action on the merits.

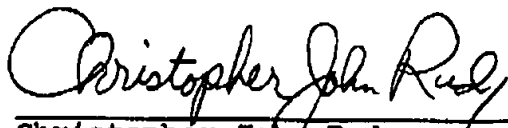
A Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully,

LESLIE E. SMITH ET AL.

Dated: November 3, 2004 A.D.

By


Christopher John Rudy
PTO Registration No. 31,873
209 Huron Avenue, Suite 8
Port Huron, Michigan 48060
Telephone (810) 982-4221

Encl

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

NOV 03 2004

Sheet 1 of 1

"FORM PTO-1449"

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
ACCOMPANYING
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTRe: Leslie E. SMITH et al.
Docket No. P-FILM-603
Appl. Ser. No. 10/743,936
Filing Date 12/23/2003
Group Art Unit 1732

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exr. In.	Doc. Number	Type	Date	Name	Cl.	Subcl.
	Re 36,457	E1	12/21/1999	Ellison et al.	428	31
	3,933,547	A1	01/20/1976	Yoshida et al.	156	77
	4,769,100	A1	09/06/1988	Short et al.	156	285
	4,824,506	A1	04/25/1989	Hoerner et al.	156	245
	4,828,637	A1	05/09/1989	Mentzer et al.	156	212
	4,838,973	A1	06/13/1989	Mentzer et al.	156	212
	4,868,030	A1	09/19/1989	Mentzer et al.	156	174
	4,957,802	A1	09/18/1990	Mentzer et al.	428	174
	4,976,896	A1	12/11/1990	Short et al.	264	1.9
	5,082,717	A1	01/21/1992	Yaguchi et al.	428	207
	5,114,514	A1	05/19/1992	Landis	156	153
	5,114,789	A1	05/19/1992	Reafler	428	328
	5,125,994	A1	06/30/1992	Harasta et al.	156	160
	5,132,148	A1	07/21/1992	Reafler	427	393.5
	5,192,609	A1	03/09/1993	Carroll, Jr.	428	328
	5,215,811	A1	06/01/1993	Reafler et al.	428	212
	5,286,528	A1	02/15/1994	Reafler	427	412.1
	5,326,520	A1	07/05/1994	Franck et al.	264	171
	5,456,957	A1	10/10/1995	Jackson et al.	428	31
	5,895,624	A1	04/20/1999	Reece et al.	264	554
	6,180,195	B1	01/30/2001	Ellison et al.	428	31
	6,299,979	B1	10/09/2001	Neubauer et al.	428	407
	6,419,778	B2	07/16/2002	Miyake et al.	156	222
	6,524,510	B2	02/25/2003	Spengler	264	248
	6,589,378	B2	07/08/2003	Grafenstein et al.	156	222
	6,649,003	B1	11/18/2003	Spain et al.	156	230
	6,673,428	B1	01/06/2004	Reafler	428	216
	2001/0019182	A1	09/06/2001	Hebrink et al.	264	1.6
	2003/0031891	A1	02/13/2003	Fields	428	626
	2003/0041955	A1	03/06/2003	Spengler	156	221
	2003/0124254	A1	07/03/2003	McCoy et al.	427	282
	2003/0213549	A1	11/20/2003	McAmish et al.	156	229
	2003/0235704	A1	12/25/2003	Akatsu et al.	428	482
	2004/0033675	A1	02/19/2004	Fleming et al.	428	482
	2004/0123942	A1	07/01/2004	Spain et al.	156	230

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exr. In.	Doc. Number	Date	Country	Cl./Sub.	Trn. Y/N
	WO 94/03337	02/17/1994	PCT/US	B44C1/10	English

OTHER DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED: